

Friday June 4, 1965

Dear Miss Meagher:

In answer to your letter of May 25 here are a few more comments regarding Connally.

I do not believe that Connally misrepresented any facts to accommodate the Warren Commission. His big lie about turning to the left was made in the hospital on Wednesday, November 27, 1963 - long before the Warren Commission was thought of and before he knew that the Zapruder films existed and would appear in Life magazine. My belief is that he lied to protect the actual "arrangers" of the assassination. I believe he knew very well where his shot came from - he knew that he was shot by mistake - he knew where the shot was supposed to come from - and, no matter how mad he was at the "arrangers," he couldn't expose them without exposing his own guilty knowledge. Therefore he said "As I turned to the left, I was hit." In that interview, he said nothing about first turning to the right and then starting to turn to the left. That story had to be doctored to tell to the Warren Commission because I, for one, and no doubt hundreds of other people called him on that "turn to the left" after having viewed the Life pictures.

What everyone seems to forget in all the talk about "delayed reaction" is the law that action begets reaction. The action of a body struck with a rifle bullet is away from the source of the bullet. The body is jerked violently in the same direction the bullet is traveling - whether it feels anything or not - it has no control over the direction it is thrust by the force of the bullet. Therefore - if Connally had been facing forward when he was hit in the back, ^{from towards up/down} he would have been thrown over the back of the driver's seat in front of his wife. If he had been hit from the grassy knoll to the right of the car - he would have been thrown sideways or backward into his wife's lap! ^{and the bullet would have entered the front of his chest.} Also, the grassy knoll is not high enough for the angle of the bullet to have gone down into his thigh.

Life magazine knows the truth. Life magazine owns the colored motion pictures Zapruder took. Life magazine could study those motion pictures and know the exact moment - from the jerk of the bodies upon the impact of the bullets. Life magazine prepared the series of consecutively numbered slides which appear as Exhibit # 885. Here are the descriptions from Life magazine of 11/29/63 + the Nov. Edition

of Frame 226 - "The president's wove" Frame 228 - "turns into a clutching movement toward his throat." Frame 232 - "Although some onlookers heard the shot, Governor Connally still faced ahead, unaware." Frame 237 - "Governor Connally, who glances around to see what has happened," Frame 244 - "is himself struck by a bullet," Frame 248 - "and slumps over." Thus Life magazine, that has unlimited access for study of the motion pictures, chooses Frame 244 as the frame in which Connally was shot in the back. Trooper has testified that a shot from Oswald's window could not have inflicted Connally's wound in Frame 244 or in any other frame past 225. Connally has not yet been shot in Frame 232 because his unwounded right wrist is in full sight and has not yet been placed in his lap across his left thigh as it had to be at the time he was shot. Therefore, Connally's shot came from the upper floors or roof of the County Jail + Courts Building or the Records Building on Houston Street.

Another lie by Connally in his testimony is refuted by the pictures and by statements he made in that same hospital interview. Governor Connally, when asked if he observed any reaction from President or Mrs. Kennedy, swears that he never did see either one of them. (V4 - p134). This does not jibe with his statement in the ^(11/27/63) interview that after being shot the President "slumped over and said nothing." How did he know he "slumped over" if he never saw him? This is also refuted by Zapruder Frames 261 to 290. Connally is looking directly at the Kennedys - even while he is being pulled backward into his wife's lap - he does not face away from them until Frame 290. Also if you will compare the third full color picture on the cover of Life of 10/2/64 (Frame 273) where the shadow on Connally's face shows his head turned to look at Mrs. Kennedy to Picture #4 - Page 45 of the same issue (Frame 277) you will see he turns back from looking at Mrs. Kennedy + looks directly at President Kennedy. I must confess that the significance of this second refuted lie escapes me. So why did he lie?

Here is something interesting. J. Joesten (Page - p181) describes Connally as "a political conservative" - (V21 - p264 - Price Exhibit #33) states: "We assisted with press releases, . . . , a number of questions

pertaining to arrangements for the Governor's welfare, . . . One question in particular was a question about some of our colored personnel being scheduled for duty for the Governor." (Emphasis added) What do you make of that?

I have heard nothing from Dallas, so today I called Mr. Willis and asked him if he had re-checked the drains? He said he had and that there is no street grating except the one he photographed further down. When I asked him to please verify that in writing he asked me what this was to be used for? I told him nothing except my own investigation. I finally got him to say he'd write me a note telling me that he photographed the only drain in that block. I have my fingers crossed - hoping that he will. I also called the County Surveyor twice. First time he was "out to lunch". Second time he was "out of town."

Sincerely,

Lillian Castellano